

## **Global Environment Facility (GEF) / United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)**

### **Development of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention for 12 Countries**

**Brief -- June 2004**

The project comprises targeted activities that will prepare an initial set of twelve pilot countries<sup>1</sup> to meet the obligations set under the Stockholm Convention. The assistance for the countries is provided through GEF grant funds and the project is managed by UNEP as the Implementing Agency. The global pilot project will contribute to the knowledge base of GEF and its agencies for the systematic execution of enabling activities in all GEF eligible countries, much in a way that the UNEP/GEF pilot bio-safety enabling activity project paved the ground for the systematic assistance to all GEF eligible countries. The project was designed to be a pilot one, however by the time that the endorsement could take place; several other countries had their individual GEF enabling activities projects for the management of POPs.

At the national level, the participating countries will build the required capacities to implement the POPs Convention through the development of their National Implementation Plans for the management of POPs. The NIPs will be supported by detailed specific action plans that identify effective national responses, processes and measures that would reduce releases of the different POPs. These NIPs are expected to meet the initial reporting obligations of the participating countries towards the Convention. Countries' capacity for managing the broader group of Persistent Toxic Substances will also be strengthened through the exercise. The NIPs will involve environmental and social sustainability issues thus will serve as good basis for investment project proposals and provide for good opportunities for the countries to receive funds from international and bilateral donors for the physical implementation phase.

The activities in each country include an assessment of POPs relevant chemical management infrastructures, the establishment of POPs inventories and the identification of suitable management options for POPs that are adapted to the prevailing circumstances. The countries also prepare prioritised action plans, including costs, for management and remediation actions.

The Project was endorsed in spring, commenced officially in May 2002, however the sub-project signatures and kick-off activities took much longer time than originally envisaged. The Steering Group for the Project (first meeting during implementation was held in June 2003 in Geneva) suggested a one year extension since the prioritized, costed and endorsed NIPs with proper stakeholder involvement and public participation based on appropriate preliminary POPs inventories need more time than the two years' time-frame of the original design, especially considering delays in certain countries (details can be found under the Progress Report). For the request of UNEP Chemicals early March 2004, a 14 months extension was provided for the global project and the 12 sub-projects. The later date for completion is 30 June 2005.

Malaysia and Lebanon were the last to sign their sub-project documents only at end of December 2002. The last country to launch its sub-project was Lebanon in April 2004 through a national workshop held in the week of the original closing date. Most of the countries are in Step 3<sup>2</sup> of the NIPs process, setting objectives and criteria for prioritization. Two countries, Malaysia and Micronesia are still in Step 2 preparing their inventories and Lebanon is Step 1, national coordination mechanisms still need to be set up.

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<sup>1</sup> Barbados, Bulgaria, Chile, Ecuador, Guinea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Slovenia and Zambia

<sup>2</sup> The five steps of the NIPs development process are:

- Determination of coordinating mechanisms and organizations of process (Step 1)
- Establishment of a POPs inventory and assessment of national infrastructure and capacity (Step 2)
- Priority setting and determination of objectives (Step 3)
- Formulation of a prioritized and costed NIP and Specific Action Plans on POPs (Step 4)
- Endorsement of the NIP by stakeholders (Step 5)

By June 2004 the disbursement rate is about 70% and the expenditure rate is close to 50%.

The major outputs at the global level are general and technical guidelines on the development of NIPs, a communication strategy, organization of regional meetings, which all would assist governments all over the world in managing and eliminating POPs. In addition, lessons learned and good practices in the twelve pilot countries will be disseminated.

At national levels, major outputs will be: actual sub-project work plans and timetables; national preliminary POPs inventories; National Profile for Chemicals Management, assessment of human health and environmental concerns related to POPs; assessment report of national POPs management infrastructure; list of prioritisation criteria and objectives with regard to priority POPs management; the prioritised, costed and endorsed NIPs and specific action plans on the management of the different types of POPs.

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